

**Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Mental Health Advisory Committee
2:00 – 4:00 PM**

Date: Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Location: 4600 Valley Road, Classroom 4-B

Interpreters: Kelly Brackenhoff & Dala McNew

Members Present

Melinda Brown
Vickie Frizzell Pratt
Jackie Prater
Mary Slominski

Technical Advisors Present

Mandy Leamon
Vickie Steinhauer Campbell

Staff Present

Tanya Wendel
Peggy Williams
Norman Weverka

Special Guest: Ashley Bradburn, Metro Community College Interpreter Training Program.

Gather, Welcome & Introductions

Ms. Pratt called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made.

Approval of March 30, 2007 Minutes

For the sake of time Ms. Pratt asked the Advisory Members to please review the March 30th minutes and if any corrections or additions needed please let Ms. Williams know.

Metro Community College Liaison

Ms. Pratt introduced Ashley Bradburn, a representative from Metro Community College (MCC) Interpreter Training Program. Ms. Bradburn explained that she had been shadowing Ms. Williams for a couple of months but has now graduated from MCC. She indicated she would like to see more students from MCC/ITP to become involved with the Commission as a practicum site and become more involved with the Commission's activities. Discussion was held regarding various activities they could be involved in. Ms. Pratt indicated they were more than welcome to attend the MHAC meetings.

Behavioral Health Coalition

Ms. Williams informed the members that she has been invited to several meetings to speak to the Coalition about residential treatment needs for deaf and hard of hearing youth and adolescents but the meetings have been cancelled. She stated she would report back to the committee in August about meeting with this Coalition. Discussion was held regarding Boys Town taking the responsibility of meeting this populations treatment needs and recommended we set up a meeting to discuss this further. Ms. Pratt commented that residential programs are closing down because of funding issues. Further discussion was held as to whether or not Boys Town was in violation of ADA. At this point there has not been a request for services from a deaf or hard of hearing child

who has been denied access that we are aware of at this time. Ms. Wendel stated that Pat Connell was open to the idea of treating deaf and hard of hearing children pending funding of interpreters and that we need to write legislation requesting specialized treatment. Ms. Williams commented that Boys Town has qualified staff that could provide counseling services. Ms. Wendel recommended that we set up an appointment with Dr. Brookhauser to discuss what Boys Town can do to make their Youth Treatment Facility accessible for deaf and hard of hearing children. Ms. Pratt suggested a research project be set up and the money would follow. Ms. Brown feels that BTNRH is responsible in paying for the interpreters to provide equal access. Ms. Pratt feels that we still need to look for money to support this program. Ms. Williams feels strongly that Boys Town is the responsible program to serve deaf and hard of hearing children. She explained that she will be presenting needs and recommendations to the Behavior Health Coalition when their next meeting is set up. Ms. Leamon feels that we might want to start looking at some other programs for access even though Boys Town might be the most appropriate program. Ms. Pratt asked the members to please email Ms. Williams with any funding recommendations or resources they might have.

First Responder Guidelines for Special Populations

Ms. Williams passed out the guidelines she wrote pertaining to communication needs of deaf and hard of hearing people for the “First Responders Guidelines” that the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Department of Psychiatry is developing. She stated that Mike Gooch is currently working on developing information for First Responders. Robin Zagurski with the Medical Center was going to suggest that he contact me for the deaf and hard of hearing piece. Ms. Williams explained that these guidelines are in draft form at this time.

A New Look at the Old: Sensory Deficit in Older Adults: Hearing Loss Video

Ms. Williams explained that the Hearing Loss video was made on May 1st with Dr. Summer and me. Ms. Williams explained that Dr. Summer is a professor and program chair in the Creighton University School of Nursing. She stated the project that made this video possible is a collaborative effort among the AJN, the Gerontological Society of America and Trinity Workforce Learning, a distance learning company based in Texas. The project was funded in part by Atlantic Philanthropies and results journal articles on a series of topics specific to the care of older adults and will present cutting edge research and best practices. The video will be released in mid-June and the Commission will receive a copy. Ms. Williams will show the advisory members the video at the August meeting.

The Lasting Hope Recovery Center

- a. Architect Report – Ms. Williams reported that she met with Alegent and the Architect’s for the Lasting Hope Recovery Center to discuss technology needs in an effort for deaf and hard of hearing people to have equal access to the Center. Ms. Williams explained the technology that she recommended for the Center. Discussion was held regarding including a FM conference system for group activities, DLink and the OJO video equipment as well as training staff

on how to use the equipment will need to occur at the Center. Acoustics within various parts of the Center was also discussed as a concern for people who are hard of hearing. Questions were asked about using the DLink and the OJO to provide Telehealth Mental Health Services. Ms. Williams indicated that the equipment would have to meet State Medicaid standards in order for the therapist to be reimbursed. Ms. Wendel feels that the Telehealth concept should be brought to Alegent's attention so that providers could link up with the Center to provide services. Ms. Williams will talk to Steve Spelic about the Telehealth concept.

- b. Subcommittee Report: Ms. Williams reported on the information that Mr. Spelic provided at the March 30th meeting regarding services that will be provided by the Lasting Hope Recovery Center. Please refer to the March 30th MHAC meeting minutes for specific information on the Center. Discussion was held about the need in having this type of facility which is not a "revolving door" program.

Ms. Williams reported that the subcommittee that recently met was Vickie, Melinda, Mandy, Jackie and myself. Discussion was held on the Lasting Hope Recovery Center proposal that Steve Spelic requested for providing services for deaf and hard of hearing people. Ms. Williams passed out the subcommittee meeting suggestions for the proposal which outlined 15 different items that needed to be in the proposal. She stated that the proposal needed to include the need, partnership, recommendations and visual information.

- c. Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program Proposal - After discussing several of the recommendations it was recommended that the proposal for the Center be titled, "Service Delivery Plan for the Lasting Hope Recovery Center in Treating Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals". It was also noted that Ms. Williams will work on the "Service Delivery Plan" and meet with the subcommittee to review the plan on June 8th from 10:00 AM – 12:00 at Ms. Pratt's office.
- c. Statewide Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing – Ms. Williams announced that even though the Center will serve only Region 6 Nebraskans, the Center will serve deaf and hard of hearing people on a statewide level.

Old Business

1. Agency Updates:

NCDHH: Tanya Wendel promoted the June 26th program that will be on Nebraska Educational Television from 7:00 – 8:00 PM on hearing loss. There will be a panel of experts, Dr. Lusk and Dr. Cohn from Boys Town National Research Hospital. Two other people serving on the panel will address occupational safety and noise protection. Individuals can call in with their questions and speak to someone about the questions they have. Following this program from 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM a program will air on "Drowning

in Noise-Deafening Sound” which is about rock musicians and how they lost their hearing and a segment on how the ear works. The Commission is also doing some prevention/education on Hunter Education with Cabela’s. Ms. Pratt recommended sending this information to the safety managers of major industries. Ms. Wendel asked the members if they would be willing to send this flier to people on their listserv’s.

Ms. Wendel passed out a flier about the Interpreter Summer Intensive Program that will be held on June 24-29th. She indicated that Jimmy Beldon will present on “Deaf Culture” and Carolyn Ball who is an interpreter from Missouri will be a presenter as well as other presenters from the Region. This program will be a silent immersion week; all events will be conducted in American Sign Language. Interpreters will not be provided. Fun activities will occur in the evening. Approximately 3.2 CEU’s will be offered.

Ms. Wendel announced that the NCDHH Public Information Officer’s position in opened and will close on May 25th.

Melinda Brown (BTNRH): Ms. Brown announced that summer school for the Metro Regional Program will begin in June and continue for 2 weeks. She also expressed concern regarding concerns she has about the need in having training set up with Child Protective Service Workers in Omaha. Ms. Williams informed the committee that she had tried several times to get this set up and the supervisor for the CPS workers would not return her call. She will make a couple of calls and see if there is another contact she can speak with at Health and Human Services to schedule this training.

Mary Slominski (LFS) – Ms. Slominski announced that Lutheran Family Services (LFS) is setting up an Anger Management group for adults and adolescence as well as expanding their refugee resettlement program. New to the LFS program is a “Children’s Boutique” program which is a program designed to assist parents to become healthy parents.

Vickie Steinhauer Campbell (VR) – Ms. Campbell announced that she will be making a presentation to VR’s full staff meeting on deaf culture.

Vickie Frizzell Pratt (Healthy Solutions) - Ms. Pratt reported that she is setting up a women’s and adolescence program and stated she is still serving on the State Licensing Board. She stated that there is a mental health bill before the Legislature LB 247 that if passed the therapist could apply for a new license as a licensed individual mental health practitioner which would allow that therapist to diagnose major mental illnesses.

2. New NCDHH Mental Health Brochure

Ms. Williams passed out the new NCDHH Mental Health brochure and asked the advisory members if they would please take some and place them in their place of practice.

3. Next Meeting: August 21, 2007 in Omaha. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

